

## Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: RADIO-TV HIGHLIGHTS - MARCH 28, 1974 (MORNING),

MARCH 27, 1974 (EVENING)

FOR VEST FROM KING

MARVIN KALB -- CBS RADIO FROM MOSCOW -- ("FIRST-LINE REPORT" -- THE SOVIET INVESTMENT IN THE PRESIDENCY OF RICHARD NIXON. THE LINE HERE IS THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE BASED ON NATIONAL INTERESTS, NOT INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITIES. BY THAT RUSSIAN OFFICIALS MEAN THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S PROBLEMS ARE HIS OWN, NOT THE NATION'S, AND THEY SHOULD NOT -- INDEED, DO NOT -- INTERFERE WITH NORMAL BUSINESS-LIKE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. IN FACT, SOME OFFICIALS CARRY THEIR LOGIC TO RATHER EXTREME CONCLUSIONS. THEY SAY THAT EVEN IF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTES A BILL OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST PRESIDENT NIXON BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED MOSCOW JOURNEY THAT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT UPON THE SUMMIT. HE WOULD STILL BE WELCOME. WHY, THE NATURAL QUESTION. BECAUSE, COMES THE UNNATURAL ANSWER, HE WOULD STILL BE PRESIDENT AND HE WOULD STILL BE IN A POSITION TO RATIFY AGREEMENTS, CAREFULLY REACHED DURING KISSINGER'S CURRENT VISIT TO MOSCOW. THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE TAINTED IF INDEED THE HOUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD VOTE A BILL OF IMPEACHMENT, THAT HE MIGHT IN THAT

CASE CHOOSE TO POSTPONE THE SUMMIT -- THIS IS ALL OBVIOUS.  
BUT THE RUSSIANS SAY THEY WILL NOT ALLOW AMERICAN POLITICS

TO INTERFERE WITH THE GENERALLY UPBEAT TREND IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THEY DESCRIBE THE PRESIDENT AS A POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE, NOT ONE OF THEIR FAVORITES BY THE WAY, WHO FINALLY SAW THE LIGHT, FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT CONFRONTATION NO LONGER MADE MUCH SENSE IN THE NUCLEAR AGE AND THAT COOPERATION WAS THE MORE SENSIBLE POLICY. NIXON HAS FOLLOWED THAT POLICY, THEY SAY, DESPITE ABERRATIONS BECAUSE NUCLEAR WAR WAS AN INSANE ALTERNATIVE. RUSSIAN OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT EVEN IF BREZHNEV WERE TO LEAVE OFFICE FOR WHATEVER REASON THE SOVIET UNION WOULD REMAIN COMMITTED TO A GENERAL LINE OF DETENTE. THERE MIGHT BE DETOURS BUT THE MAIN LINE WOULD CONTINUE, AND YET BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE DIVERGENT POSITIONS IN MANY DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN THE ME. THERE WAS A MAJOR CRISIS THERE ONLY LAST FALL AND ANOTHER IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE -- RUSSIA POURING WEAPONS INTO SYRIA, THE US CONTINUING TO SUPPLY ISRAEL. BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE SHARPLY DIVERGENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. IT TAKES A LEADER, ONE PERSON, TO GIVE VOICE AND SHAPE TO A POLICY OF DETENTE DESPITE OBJECTIVE FACTORS THAT RUN IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AND THE RUSSIANS KNOW THIS. THEIR POLITICAL SYSTEM IS MUCH MORE ATTUNED TO INDIVIDUAL RULE THAN IS THE AMERICAN SYSTEM; THAT IS WHY THEIR RHETORIC NOT WITHSTANDING THEY ARE CHEERING ON THE SIDELINES FOR RICHARD NIXON TO SURVIVE WATERGATE, TO BEAT BACK HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES AND TO CONTINUE TO GET ALONG WITH THEM, THE RUSSIANS. RUSSIANS WHO HAVE LIVED IN THE US SAY THEY ARE SORRY TO SEE THE PRESIDENT HARMED BY WATERGATE. THEY SAY THAT IF THE PRESIDENT IS HARMED THEN SO TOO IS THE US. THEY SAY THE SAME AS THE PRESIDENT AND HIS OWN AIDES: THEY SAY ONE YEAR OF WATERGATE IS ENOUGH AND THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF FINDING OUT WHO'S GUILTY OF WHAT OUGHT TO BE STOPPED. THE RUSSIANS OPERATE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE PROCESS KNOWN AS WATERGATE CAN BE STOPPED BY SOMEONE SIMPLY THROWING A SWITCH, REVERSING EVERYTHING. THEY DON'T KNOW WHO THE SOMEONE IS, BUT THEY ARE SURE HE EXISTS AND HE OUGHT TO GET BUSY. RUSSIANS SIMPLY DO NOT UNDER-  
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STAND THE WATERGATE CRISIS; IT IS TOO COMPLICATED FOR THEM AND DEEP DOWN THEY HAVE A FEELING THAT THERE IS A SPECIAL COLD WAR ANTI-COMMUNIST CLIQUE THAT IS OPERATING TO DO THE PRESIDENT IN, TO BLOCK DETENTE, TO REKINDLE COLD WAR HOSTILITY. THIS SOVIET UNION VIEW MIGHT STRIKE SOME AMERICANS AS WEIRD, BUT THERE IT IS.

MARVIN KALB -- CBS-TV ("CRONKITE SHOW") FROM MOSCOW, MARCH 27 -- WHEN KISSINGER HOSTED A LUNCH FOR GROMYKO HE

KNEW ONLY THAT BREZHNEV HAD SUMMONED AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY POLITBORO TO CONSIDER A NEW AMERICAN PLAN FOR A DEAL LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS. SO, THE SECRETARY SHIED AWAY FROM NEWSMEN, UTTERING FORGETTABLE

ONE-LINERS. GROMYKO WAS JUST AS BASHFUL. ONE REPORTER ASKED HIM, "HOW ARE THE TALKS GOING?" HE ANSWERED WITH ONE WORD: "AHEAD." LATER IN THE DAY, AFTER KISSINGER AND GROMYKO HAD MET PRIVATELY, THEY BOTH CONFERRED WITH BREZHNEV FOR THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS, ONLY THEN DID KISSINGER LEARN THAT HE COULD NOT GET THE DEAL HE HAD COME HERE FOR; HE FAILED. A POSSIBLE MEETING WITH BREZHNEV FOR TOMORROW MORNING WAS CANCELED; THE SOVIET LEADER DRIVING A HARD BARGAIN FORCING KISSINGER HOME FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONS. BOTH SIDES WENT AS FAR AS THEY COULD GO BUT OBVIOUSLY NOT FAR ENOUGH TO REGISTER A BREAKTHROUGH. MUCH NEGOTIATING REMAINS BEFORE PRESIDENT NIXON CAN RETURN TO MOSCOW FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN A SIGHTSEEING SPECTACULAR.

NOTE: KALB'S REPORTS ON CBS AT 5:00 AND 6:00 P.M. WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THE ABOVE, WHILE AT 3:00 P.M. HE REPORTED ON THE SOVIET CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW AMERICAN PROPOSAL AND WAS UPBEAT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE POLITBORO DECISION.

MARVIN KALB -- CBS RADIO FROM LONDON (MARCH 28) -- A HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED TODAY THAT KISSINGER FAILED TO GET A BREAKTHROUGH ON A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT DURING HIS THREE DAYS OF TALKS IN MOSCOW WITH BREZHNEV. HOWEVER, KISSINGER IS STILL COUNTING ON A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW IN THE EARLY SUMMER. REPORTERS FLYING INTO LONDON ON THE SECRETARY'S PLANE WERE TOLD THAT THE RUSSIANS YESTERDAY GAVE THE SECRETARY A NEW PROPOSAL ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS, BUT THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS UNACCEPTABLE AND IS LIKELY TO KICK OFF A BUREAUCRATIC BRAWL IN

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WASHINGTON, IN PART BETWEEN THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS. KISSINGER EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS, FIRST WHEN FM GROMYKO COMES TO WASHINGTON IN MID-APRIL AND THEN WHEN KISSINGER HIMSELF RETURNS TO MOSCOW IN LATE MAY. BUT A NEW ARMS AGREEMENT IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS UNLIKELY MEANING PRESIDENT NIXON WILL NOT HAVE THIS KIND OF MAJOR AGREEMENT READY FOR SIGNATURE AT THE TIME OF THE SUMMIT. FOR HIM DURING WATERGATE A MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT.

JOHN DANCEY -- NBC-TV NIGHTLY NEWS, MARCH 27 -- A HIGH SOVIET OFFICIAL WHO WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THE TALKS INSISTS THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE NOT HIT A SNAG. IT IS JUST,

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